

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CA-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 INSE-00 /097 W
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P 141659Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8638

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 04483

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 20 MEETING ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES,

-- KUALA LUMPUR

REF: (A) STATE 215855 (B) KUALA LUMPUR 9571

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED FORTHCOMING KUALA LUMPUR MEETING AND
ISSUES RAISED IN REF (A) WITH MIKE MALLOY, CHIEF OF
REFUGEE POLICY, CANADIAN EMPLOYMENT AND IMMIGRATION.
MALLOY SAID GOC IS TREATING THIS MEETING AS LOW-KEY
INFORMATIONAL SESSION AND HAS NO GREAT EXPECTATIONS OF
RESULTS OTHER THAN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. PARTICIPANTS WILL
BE IMMIGRATION OFFICER IAN HAMILTON FROM SINGAPORE AND
NEW CANADIAN HICOM KUALA LUMPUR. LATTER MAY ATTEND AS
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OBSERVER ONLY IF HE HAS NOT PRESENTED CREDENTIALS BY TIME
OF MEETING.

2. MALLOY SAID INDOCHINESE REFUGEE ISSUE FINALLY HAS
BECOME TOP PRIORITY ITEM FOR CANADIAN EXECUTIVE AND
LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES, SINCE PRESSURE IN BEHALF OF SOUTH
AMERICAN POLITICAL REFUGEES HAS ABATED. WHILE HIS

DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN GIVEN MANDATE (INCLUDING CABINET APPROVAL) TO EXPAND BOTH PRESENCE AND PROGRAMS IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA, HOWEVER, FUNDS HAVE NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING. IN FACT, DEPARTMENT RECEIVED THIS MANDATE PRECISELY AT TIME BUDGET CUTS WERE BEING INSTITUTED THROUGHOUT GOVERNMENT AND SOME OVERSEAS POSTS WERE BEING IDENTIFIED FOR CLOSING OR REDUCTIONS. MALLOY IS CONFIDENT THAT FUNDS WILL BE FOUND, THROUGH SIPHONING OFF SOME RESOURCES FROM POSTS BEING CLOSED, TO ESTABLISH PERMANENT IMMIGRATION OFFICE IN BANGKOK AND INCREASE REFUGEE INTAKE.

3. PLANS ARE TO STATION TWO OFFICERS IN BANGKOK. A JUNIOR OFFICER ALREADY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AND SHOULD BE ASSIGNED BY END OF CALENDAR YEAR. HE MAY BE ADDED TEMPORARILY TO SINGAPORE STAFF UNTIL FUNDS FOUND TO OPEN BANGKOK OFFICE. A SENIOR OFFICER IS BEING SOUGHT FOR ASSIGNMENT SOMEWHAT LATER. ONCE THERE IS A CLEAR TARGET DATE FOR OPENING BANGKOK, A NEW PROGRAM OF TWENTY FAMILIES OF LAND REFUGEES PER MONTH WILL BE INITIATED, TO BE EXPANDED TO FIFTY LAND FAMILIES PER MONTH ONCE OFFICE FULLY OPERATIONAL. THIS MAY TAKE AS MUCH AS A YEAR FROM NOW. THESE NUMBERS WILL BE IN ADDITION TO CONTINUING PROGRAM FOR FIFTY BOAT FAMILIES PER MONTH. PROPOSED NEW PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY AND SHOULD BE CAREFULLY HELD UNTIL GOC ISSUES PRESS RELEASE. ANNOUNCEMENT, OF COURSE, ALSO AWAITS CLEARER IDENTIFICATION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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SOURCE AND TIMING OF FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

4. MALLOY COMMENTED THAT LONG-RANGE SOLUTION OF REFUGEE SITUATION DEPENDS UPON THAI COMMITMENT TO RESETTLE SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF LAND REFUGEES LOCALLY. THAI OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD CANADIANS THEY MIGHT RESETTLE 20,000 BUT THIS IS TOTALLY UNREALISTIC. THEY SHOULD BE THINKING IN TERMS OF 70,000 TO BE RESETTLED IN THAILAND WITH INTERNATIONAL HELP. IF RTG WOULD MAKE SUCH COMMITMENT, GOC WOULD BE GENEROUS IN PROVIDING AID AND WOULD BE IN BETTER POSITION TO JUSTIFY INCREASING ITS OWN INTAKE OF REFUGEES FOR RESETTLEMENT. ACCORDING TO MALLOY, CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE FOR COST OF A RURAL DEVELOPMENT/RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM OF THE NECESSARY MAGNITUDE IN THAILAND IS FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS. WHILE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CIDA) WILL NOT MAKE WRITTEN COMMITMENTS NOW, MALLOY SAYS, IT IS CLEAR UNDERSTANDING WITHIN GOVERNMENT THAT CIDA WOULD COME THROUGH WITH SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TOWARD SUCH PROGRAM.

5. MALLOY REPEATED FREQUENT CANADIAN CONTENTION THAT BULK OF LAND REFUGEES SIMPLY CANNOT BE ASSIMILATED INTO CANADIAN OR OTHER MODERN WESTERN SOCIETY. HE CITED

EXAMPLE OF 235 TIBETAN REFUGEES WHO WERE FINALLY ESTABLISHED IN CANADA AT COST TO GOC OF FOUR MILLION DOLLARS. IN ADDITION TO PUBLIC OUTCRY CAUSED BY SUCH EXPENDITURES, ESPECIALLY IN TIMES OF ECONOMIC HARDSHIP, THERE IS DANGER THAT PROVINCES (WHICH UNDER CANADIAN FEDERAL SYSTEM MUST CONCUR IN SETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES WITHIN THEIR BORDERS) MIGHT OPT OUT OF FUTURE REFUGEE PROGRAMS IF THEY WERE NOT RECEIVING GENERALLY USEFUL HUMAN RESOURCES. ALBERTA DID SO IN CASE OF CHILEAN REFUGEES, FOR INSTANCE. CANADA COULD THEN END UP WITH A FEDERAL INTAKE PROGRAM BUT NO

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PLACE FOR SETTLEMENT IN FACT. MALLOY SEES PRESSURE FOR A FIRM THAI RESETTLEMENT COMMITMENT AS THE ONLY REAL ALTERNATIVE TO "WAFFLING ALONG" AS HAS BEEN DONE TO DATE.

6. WITH REGARD TO PARA TEN REF (B), CANADA HAS UNUSED QUOTA FOR FOUR TO FIVE MONTHS OF CURRENT FIFTY FAMILY MONTHLY PROGRAM, AND HAS RECEIVED POLICY APPROVAL TO USE THESE BY END OF YEAR. RESULT IS THAT INTAKE THEORETICALLY CAN BE DOUBLED FOR REMAINDER OF 1978. THIS WILL NOT REPRESENT ACTUAL INCREASE IN QUOTA, ONLY IN ACCEPTANCES. CANADA IMMIGRATION STILL MUST WRESTLE WITH PHYSICAL

DIFFICULTIES OF PROCESSING THIS VOLUME OF CASES WITH
INSUFFICIENT FIELD STAFF BUT HOPES TO INCREASE INTAKE
SIGNIFICANTLY. ENDERS

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